Permanent construction in the submerging Areas of THEP

†4471. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that concrete or permanent constructions are being carried out at the unuseful places in the submerging areas of the Tehri Hydro Electric Project;

(b) whether Government have prohibited construction in the submerging areas, if so, whether persons engaged in construction work would face difficulties in getting compensation; and

(c) the Government's policy in order to avoid difficulties arising out of such disputes and what arrangements have been made to make people aware of all this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttaranchal has informed that construction is still being carried out by some persons residing in the submergence area of Tehri Project. Such construction is unauthorized and will not be eligible for compensation. The Tehri Dam Coordination Committee constituted by the Government of Uttaranchal is empowered to check the unauthorized construction. The Special Land Acquisition Officer has also been given appropriate instructions in this regard.

Fire at Patratu Thermal Power Station in Jharkhand

4472. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident of fire took place at Patratu Thermal Power Station of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons of the fire;

(c) the loss caused due to this fire;

(d) whether adequate safety measures exist in the plant to combat fire; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Jharkand State Electricity Board (JSEB), there was an incident of fire at Patratu TPS on 09.01.2002 which started at 17.40 hrs. in the cable gallery of unit control room of Units 1 & 2. The fire was controlled at about 20.00 hrs. and was completely quenched by 00.30 hrs. of 10.01.2002. The control room and cable gallery of Units 1 & 2 were completely burnt. One circuit breaker was damaged. The generator transformers No. 2 & 3 and station transformers have also been partially damaged due to flashing.

(c) An enquiry committee was constituted by JSEB under the Advisor to Chairman, JSEB with members from BHEL, CEA and M/s. MECON Ltd. to find out the causes of fire and suggest remedial measures. The Committee has since submitted its report, according to which a loss of Rs. 22.00 crores has been estimated.

(d) and (e) Adequate fire fighting equipments were not available at Patratu TPS. Fire was controlled by using the fire tenders and trailer pump set available at power station and also fire tenders called from outside agencies.

Completion of Ist phase of THEP

†4473. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of 1st phase of Tehri Hydro Electric Project is likely to be completed by December, 2002;

(b) whether it is also a fact that apart from Tehri Nagar about 84 revenue villages also come under fully or partially submerged areas;

(c) the number of fully submerged villages, displaced persons, standard families, places where these persons are to be rehabilitated and portion of land acquisition in this region; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.